



City of Hamilton

CITY COUNCIL ADDENDUM

20-021

Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 9:30 A.M.

Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's Website: <https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/meetings-and-agendas>

City's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton> or Cable 14

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- *4.11 Correspondence from Abbie Roberts respecting the mandating the use of masks in Hamilton.

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 2 of Board of Health Report 20-005.

- *4.12 Correspondence respecting Report FCS20086 respecting the Submission of Integrity Commissioner Investigation Report - Complaint Filed Against a Citizen Committee Member (Item 4.8):

*4.12.a Victoria Daniels

*4.12.b Liz Jackson

*4.12.c Lyla Miklos

*4.12.d Lauren Stephen

- *4.12.e Lauren Stephen
- *4.12.f Maureen McDougall
- *4.12.g Chris Erl
- *4.12.h Haley Reap
- *4.12.i Tanya Ritchie
- *4.12.j Amy Hondronicols
- *4.12.k Rachel Cuthill
- *4.12.l Noelle Allen
- *4.12.m Jason Allen
- *4.12.n Doreen Stermann
- *4.12.o Michael Hutchings
- *4.12.p Jessica Claus
- *4.12.q Lauren Stephen
- *4.12.r Craig Burley
- *4.12.s Sarah Kovacs
- *4.12.t Amanda Ayer
- *4.12.u Sienna DiGiuseppe
- *4.12.v Dana Hansen
- *4.12.w Ashley Daniels

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 4.8.

- *4.13 Correspondence from Deborah Tomlinson-Veit respecting street safety neglected at Main Street and Sherman Avenue.

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the General Manager of Public Works for appropriate action.

9. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

*9.2 Encampment Litigation Update (LS20023(c)) (City Wide)

Pursuant to Section 8.1, Sub-sections (e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law 18-270, as amended; and, Section 239(2), Sub-sections (e) and (f) of the *Ontario Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, as the subject matters pertain to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; and, advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

September 27, 2020

Mayor and Members of Council,

I wrote to the City Councillors back in July regarding the vote to mandate facial coverings and shared about my 12 years of experience working in a Dental Office, the last 8 of which I held position as Head of Infection Prevention and Control. If any are unaware, classified under health care settings, Dentistry operates under the same jurisdiction as hospitals when it comes to Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC). I shared with you my reasons, given my experience and knowledge of IPAC, as to why I believed that mandating masks would actually have the opposite effect than desired.

Unfortunately, I was proven correct in many of my concerns.

After more than 2 months now of mandatory face coverings indoors in the City of Hamilton, our cases of Covid-19 are now quickly rising. Ironically the case numbers began their second ascent shortly after facial coverings became mandated indoors in Hamilton.

Since masks have become mandatory, I regularly see people disregarding the 6 foot rule, often having strangers coming right up beside me. They seem to think it is a fix-all for everything and that they are now "Covid proof" by donning a mask so as to believe that physical distancing is no longer important. Most often, these masks are either a dirty mask they took out of their pocket/purse/bag or one that they have had sitting in their cars being used multiple times a day/week for weeks on end. In addition I see countless people wearing masks below their nose, or being handled/adjusted endlessly and then touching items in the store. I will not even get started on how disturbing it is to see how people manage their masks in a restaurant only to proceed to eating their food with the same hands, and the mask sitting beside their plate. Overall, there is no sense of IPAC!

Those who are strongly in favour of the wearing of masks can be trusted to follow protocol and handle their mask properly to reduce spread. However, now that everyone is wearing masks there is no way to know who is following proper protocol with masks and who are simply "getting by" with what is required of them to get indoors (which I fear, based on everything I've heard and seen over the last 2 months, seems to be the VAST majority as I suspected back in July when the minority of people were voluntarily wearing masks in public).

In addition, I shared with the council members that a single sneeze renders a mask useless as the moisture from the sneeze creates a direct pathway to the exterior of the mask by wicking it through the filter (disposable/surgical) or

material (cloth). How often I see people sneeze into their mask and not change it. Or wear the same mask all day which then gets moist from breath and wicks bacteria in and out of the mask. Or whose mask gets wet in the rain while walking to get indoors. Additionally as well, masks lose efficacy the longer they are worn, which all health care workers know. This is why best standards of practice for health care workers is to change masks every 1-1.5 hours or more frequently as needed. Most children at school and adults at work are wearing the same single mask all day.

I want to draw your attention to a statement that IPAC Canada made in regards to masks (<https://ipac-canada.org/pandemic-h1n1-resources.php>). While being sure to note that the first sentence is in relation to the H1N1 Flu, not Covid-19, the information in the following sentences on the use and improper use of PPE, in this case masks, is universal. It states:

*“There is no evidence to suggest that wearing masks will prevent the spread of infection in the general population. **Improper use of masks may in fact increase the risk of infection.** Masks do not act as an effective barrier against disease when they are worn for extended periods of time. In addition, removing your mask incorrectly can spread virus to your hands and face.”*

My second quote comes from Public Health Ontario in regards to Health Care Workers (HCW) use of PPE specific to Covid-19 (<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/updated-ipac-measures-covid-19.pdf?la=en>). It says,

“Although the use of PPE controls are the most visible in the hierarchy of controls, PPE controls is the last tier in the hierarchy and should not be relied on as a stand-alone primary prevention program.....The health care organization plays a critical role in ensuring HCWs have access to appropriate PPE for the task to be performed and the necessary education and training to ensure competency on the appropriate selection, use and disposal of PPE to prevent exposure to infection.”

While ideally everyone would practice perfect hygiene with their masks, the truth is that the vast majority do not care and see it as nothing more than a requirement to get into wherever they are wanting to go. This is a huge problem, and a huge threat to infection prevention and control as we see from IPAC Canada as well as PHO, which leaves little surprise that we are now seeing our numbers rising. Yes, face coverings are an easy reference point for us to draw our attention to as something that can help our problem. But what we don't see is

whose masks are actually helping the situation and whose masks are undoing all the work we've been doing all this time. As mentioned, PPE is always the last tier when it comes to IPAC but also proper education, training and follow-through on use are imperative to the success of using PPE effectively or else it can have the opposite consequences.

Mandatory face coverings have proven to be less effective than voluntary mask wearing as we've seen evidenced in our own city in the last two months. We want to believe the best and make laws in regards to the ideal but we have to deal with reality. Yes, ideally, everyone would be putting care into wearing masks properly. But also ideally, we wouldn't be dealing with Covid-19 in the first place. The reality though is that we are dealing with Covid-19 just as much as we are dealing with a majority of people who are entirely apathetic about proper care and use of face coverings other than knowing that without one on their face they cannot get into wherever they are wanting to go. Mandatory face coverings is putting us all at risk and as law makers you are responsible for changing these laws for the best interest of our whole city.

As we face another holiday where we will not be allowed to gather with loved ones, and with the possibility of another lockdown looming if numbers do not get under control, please consider the information provided in this delegation and vote to return to voluntary masking. Please strongly urge residents to wear masks but please vote against the mandatory masking as it is causing more harm than good.

Below I have included a copy of the email I originally sent to each of the Council Members back on July 10th. Thank you SO very much for your time and consideration, it is so very appreciated. All the best to you as you continue to make tough decisions on behalf of our city.

Sincerely,

Abbie Roberts of Mount Hope

On Friday, July 10, 2020, Abbie Roberts <abbie.joy.roberts@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Hamilton City Councillors,

Today the City of Hamilton has voted to make mask wearing mandatory in all indoor public spaces. Having worked in a dental office for the last 12 years, being head of Infection Prevention and Control for the past 8 of those years, I urge you to consider the following information in your decision on whether to mandate masks or to keep it voluntary.

When it comes to masks there are some key points to be followed to make them effective in preventing the spread of infection. For starters, masks must be kept dry at all times. If one becomes wet or moist it must be discarded and thrown away or it is rendered useless as the droplets will flow through to the exterior of the mask making them spray outward from the outside of the mask by force when the wearer coughs or sneezes. Wetness/moistness can happen for various reasons, most often from the natural moisture that happens as a result of breathing. If worn long enough or in humid areas the mask will become damp or wet. Sneezing in a mask will also ruin the filter making it void after one moist sneeze.

Second, masks are only to be worn for one patient at one time. They are always to be discarded after use and a new one donned when seeing another patient.

Thirdly, masks are not to be touched anywhere other than the earloops, and only when putting on and taking off- any additional touching would contaminate the mask putting the wearer at risk of exposure to the patients germs and the patient exposure to the wearers germs. Touching the filter of the mask also ruins it and renders it useless and ineffective.

Unfortunately, the general public, while growing in their knowledge, are not versed in proper infection prevention and control practices. I see so many people wearing masks and gloves in their cars, wearing them either home or to other stores. May I ask- if you were at the dentist or doctors office and the practitioner walked in wearing mask and gloves they just wore for treatment on their previous patient- would you be okay with that or would you insist they change PPE and place fresh ones on for your appointment? I have no doubts that you would have some serious questions and concerns for your practitioner if that happened, and a practitioner who was found to be making a habit of such a practice would be fined by public health and disciplined by their regulatory body.

Wearing a mask and/or gloves from home to store to car to store to home is doing exactly that- transferring the bacteria from all those places like a dentist would be transferring germs if he or she did not change their PPE between patients or office activities. Wearing a disposable or reusable mask multiple places then bringing it home to wear on another day is spreading more germs than if you did not wear it at all. I also often see people wearing masks inside out...this does absolutely nothing for preventing droplets.

Fact is while a lot of people are passionate about wearing masks, majority are not. Those who are passionately against masks will avoid having to wear them and thus avoid indoor places as they refuse to wear them- these are not the people to be concerned about. People who are passionate about wearing masks will follow instructions diligently- these are not the people to be concerned about. It is the people who don't care either way, who will submit to the rules of wearing a mask as deemed necessary but give no care to the details of maintaining infection control practices with the mask. They are the ones who will keep their mask in the car to use over and over again when they go out- not caring what side they are putting it on because as long as they have one on they check the boxes of what is required to enter said public indoor space and no one will know any different if they are a firm believer or a "don't care but will do what is needed to get by". Personally, the majority of people I know fall into this category. Unless masks are being handed out at each store and disposed of on the way out, making masks mandatory will actually increase the risk of spread. As everyone in the space will be wearing a mask there is no way to know who is following proper procedure and who is simply "checking the box".

I urge the Councillors to reconsider their decision of mandating the use of masks in Hamilton. While it may alleviate the anxiety of a few and give them the feeling of safety, it is in fact not in the best interest of the public's health as it could actually increase the rate and likelihood of infection. If the final decision is made to mandate masks on July 17th, please insist that every store give free masks to their customers to be used in that store and mandated to be disposed of upon leaving that store. As we all know, we cannot afford another lockdown.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, it is so greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Abbie Roberts

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~*Abbie*~

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LGBTQ Advisory Committee Chair

From: Victoria Daniels

Sent: September 28, 2020 12:13 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: LGBTQ Advisory Committee Chair

Mayor and Members of Council,

As a member of the LGBTQ community of Hamilton I am extremely disappointed to hear about the way council has treated an outstanding member of our community.

Cameron Kroetsch is invested in our city and our citizens' wellbeing. An integrity commission skipping over 14 allegations against council in order to go after a leader of a marginalized community in this city is abhorrent.

Dissent is an integral part of the democratic process. I find the City's conduct regarding citizens expressing dissent to be undemocratic.

I ask that you choose to respect Mr. Kroetsch's decision to remain as chair of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, so he can continue to fight for our marginalized communities in Hamilton.

Respectfully,
Victoria Daniels

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LGBTQ advisory committee integrity complaint - for submission to Council meeting this week

From: Eli Jackson

Sent: September 28, 2020 12:58 PM

To: Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: LGBTQ advisory committee integrity complaint - for submission to Council meeting this week

Hello councillors,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the treatment of LGBTQ advisory committee chair, Cameron Kroetsch. Cameron works tirelessly and ethically to support struggles for justice and equity; he has dedicated his time and energy to learning about how our City works and to contributing to its improvement for all of us, and particularly for those who are currently oppressed, marginalized, ignored, or harmed.

I request clarification of why this investigation is being prioritized over others that seek to address the behaviour of council members themselves. It reads as a move to silence critique and to exert power. It seems Cameron is under investigation for carrying out the mandate of this committee, in a position he is entrusted with by the communities he represents, with clarity and courage. It is hard not to feel he is being targeted because of his positions (which, again, are those of the committee he is serving on) and because his articulate advocacy is threatening to those who would rather avoid critical engagement or robust listening to those concerns.

Further, in a context where members of council have repeatedly been hostile, threatening and disparaging to community members, it is troubling to see yet another incident that threatens to scare, silence, or dissuade others from sharing their perspectives and advocating on issues they believe in.

I urge you to reject the IC report's recommendations entirely, to congratulate and thank Cameron for his continued service to our shared community, and to work together to make municipal politics something we can all be part of. Things are getting very ugly in Hamilton politics and we are all losing out as a result.

Sincerely,

Liz Jackson

Happy Ward 1 resident

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Correspondence for September 30, 2020 City Council

From: Lyla Miklos

Sent: September 29, 2020 9:26 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Correspondence for September 30, 2020 City Council

This is the full text of a social media post that I shared on Facebook and Twitter.

<https://www.facebook.com/lyla.miklos/posts/10164249950705228>

<https://twitter.com/lylamiklos/status/1310777641889419271?s=21>

Lyla Miklos
Resident
Hamilton, Ontario

Time to pick apart Report #FCS20086 Filed Against a Citizen Committee Advisory Member from the Integrity Commissioner for The City of Hamilton point for point.

<https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=240014>

PART ONE

PAGE 1 (Executive Summary)

"The Integrity Commissioner is appointed to act in an independent manner on the application of the Code of Conduct and other rules and procedures governing the ethical behaviour of members of Council. The Integrity Commissioner appointed by Council shall be responsible for providing Integrity Commissioner services on an as required basis in accordance with sections 223.3 to 223.8 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended."

Hmmm??? So an Integrity Commissioner is appointed to work independently, yet the Integrity Commissioner is appointed by that very same Council whom they have been legislated to investigate.

Confused yet???

Well maybe the Municipal Act of Ontario will make things clearer?

Integrity Commissioner

223.3 (1) Without limiting sections 9, 10 and 11, those sections authorize the municipality to appoint an Integrity Commissioner who reports to council and who is responsible for performing in an independent manner the functions assigned by the municipality with respect to any or all of the following:

1. The application of the code of conduct for members of council and the code of conduct for members of local boards.
2. The application of any procedures, rules and policies of the municipality and local boards governing the ethical behaviour of members of council and of local boards.

3. The application of sections 5, 5.1 and 5.2 of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act to members of council and of local boards.
4. Requests from members of council and of local boards for advice respecting their obligations under the code of conduct applicable to the member.
5. Requests from members of council and of local boards for advice respecting their obligations under a procedure, rule or policy of the municipality or of the local board, as the case may be, governing the ethical behaviour of members.
6. Requests from members of council and of local boards for advice respecting their obligations under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.
7. The provision of educational information to members of council, members of local boards, the municipality and the public about the municipality's codes of conduct for members of council and members of local boards and about the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 19 (1).

From: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01m25#BK255>

Yes even Ontario's own legislation gives the Municipality the authority to appoint an Integrity Commissioner who's core function is to investigate the leaders of that same Municipality for misconduct and suggest an appropriate "punishment" for their misdeeds.

Although no where in the Act does it talk about Advisory Committees falling under the umbrella of the groups that the Integrity Commissioner should have the power to investigate.

It is also interesting to note that on the City of Hamilton's own website that the first role of the Integrity Commissioner is to provide "advice to Council, members of Local Boards and Citizen Committee members to prevent potential violations of the Code of Conduct".

From: <https://www.hamilton.ca/government-information/accountability/integrity-commissioner>

So there seems to be a fundamental flaw from the get go about what the role of an Integrity Commissioner is and whom they report to. Providing advice to a City Council on whether their actions conflict with the Municipal Act, Codes of Conduct ... etc. sounds more like what the City's legal counsel are for.

The same person providing advice to that body can't also conduct investigations, suggest punishments and dole out advice on retribution against City Councillors who violate the act or other rules.

These need to be two very separate and distinct jobs.

If they are appointed by Council and report to Council their job is no longer independent.

An investigation, reporting and sentencing should all be done by an independent third party.

The role of the Integrity Commissioner as it is currently laid out contradicts this entirely.

Another contradiction: The Integrity Commissioner must preserve secrecy, but their reports to Council must be made public.

Huh!?!?!?

PAGE THREE (ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN)

"Our People and Performance: Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government."

OMG!!!!

Seriously?!?!?

Red Hill. Cootes Paradise. Hamilton Pride. Anti-Racism Resource Centre. Hate Crime Capital of Canada.

I mean come on!?!?!?

PAGE FOUR

"Principles Integrity was appointed the Integrity Commissioner for the City of Hamilton in July 2018. We are also privileged to serve as Integrity Commissioner for a number of Ontario municipalities. The operating philosophy which guides us in our work with all of our client municipalities is this: The perception that a community's elected representatives are operating with integrity is the glue which sustains local democracy. We live in a time when citizens are skeptical of their elected representatives at all levels. The overarching objective in appointing an integrity commissioner is to ensure the existence of robust and effective policies, procedures, and mechanisms that enhance the citizen's perception that their Council and local boards meet established ethical standards and where they do not, there exists a review mechanism that serves the public interest."

So they start from the stance that all elected leaders go about their business from a place of "good intent". This may explain the lack of any real action against any councillors whom residents have filed complaints against. Or the follow up of any complaints against any councillors as of late.

PAGE FIVE

"The essence of the complaint is that the Respondent Cameron Kroetsch has inappropriately used his position as Chair of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Advisory Committee (the LGBTQ AC), including by improperly and publicly criticizing and/or disparaging Council decisions or processes, and that he improperly publicly disclosed personal information about identifiable individuals contrary to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act."

If you read over the Code of Conduct for the members of Citizen Advisory Committees for The City of Hamilton you will note that NO WHERE in that code of conduct does it state that a member of an Advisory Committee may NOT "publicly criticizing and/or disparaging Council decisions or processes".

Check out their Code of Conduct at <https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2020-03-05/advisory-committee-code-conduct.pdf>

PAGE SIX

"We were also asked to consider the propriety of the Chair having given a political endorsement while being identified in that role."

Again absolutely NOTHING in that code of conduct states that the Chair of an Advisory Committee can NOT endorse a political candidate.

Heck ... I think I may have given an endorsement to a Former City Councillor back in the day when I chaired this same committee praising their work as our Committee's Advisor from Council when they ran for re-election.

PAGE NINE

"Non-compliance with established codes, policies, laws and norms may well be the only way to achieve a needed change. The thoughtful experiences of the late United States Congressman John Lewis – famous for his notion of “Good Trouble” come to mind. Non-conformity with some rules, can (although perhaps only retrospectively) be perceived as a virtue. To the extent any of the behaviours we have examined can be argued to be virtuous (Good Trouble, in order to achieve a desired change), they must also be assessed by their adherence to principles of municipal accountability and democratic governance. In that respect the primacy of Council is key – decisions are made by Council, and Council is accountable to the electorate for those decisions. The processes for making decisions depend upon deliberation and persuasion. Interests are balanced, if not traded, for the benefit of what is understood by the decision-makers to be the public good."

How! Dare! You!

John Lewis has to be rolling over in his grave right now for you to invoke his name in this gross misappropriation of all that he stood for.

He nearly lost his life protesting against the "Primacy of Council".

Even as a Congressman in his final years he held sit ins in the halls of government and other acts of civil disobedience to speak out against injustices such as gun violence, racism and more.

Shame!

PAGE ELEVEN

"The LGBTQ AC for the City of Hamilton exists to eliminate barriers experienced by LGBTQ communities by giving voice to the perspectives of LGBTQ individuals and evaluating the City on its related efforts. The Committee does this by making recommendations to Council and staff in order that the City of Hamilton will excel in providing services to and interfacing with members of the LGBTQ communities."

If that is their mission I'd say Cameron as it's Chair has been boldly fulfilling that mission and then some!

PAGE TWELVE

"These undertakings have, it has been suggested, supported a belief by members of the LGBTQ AC that their advisory committee has taken on an operational function and is 'expected' to do things beyond simply provide advice to Council."

Ok let's get real here. The organizing of that particular event fell under the tasks of that committee for YEARS. They organized the speakers, musicians, call out to the community ... etc. All the Mayor ever had to do was show up, and most years that's pretty well all he did. Long time supportive staff with the City made sure the flags were unfurled, sound system set up, chairs laid out and notices went out to the media. Mayor's office had little to do with it other than to respond to the invite and give some words of greeting. Come on!?!?!?

And what do yah know??? Further down on the same page!!!

"On April 30, 2019 the LGBTQ AC had their first meeting of the new committee and began planning the Pride Flag event. Potential dates were selected and members confirmed they would forward a list of guest speakers to staff who organize the event."

So after it became public that a Nazi had been working in the City's IT department for YEARS and a white, het, male, cisgender, able-bodied, former Auxiliary Police Officer was appointed to the Police Board by Council as their Citizen rep

the Committee put forward a motion that the flag raising event be cancelled because the City had failed to live up to their commitments to the Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community.

I mean how DARE they!?!?! Puhlease!!!

PAGE SEVENTEEN

Maybe I missed something, but in Principles Integrity's report they have a screen shot of the Tweet Cameron posted in which they claim he shared info that was redacted by Council and the City Clerk.

Ironically that screen shot does NOT contain any of the material that was redacted.

A better report might have had a hyperlink to that Tweet where you will note that neither well known figure to the public at this point is actually NAMED.

In all my YEARS sitting on Advisory Committees for the City of Hamilton I have never had Council get so up in our business that they ordered the City Clerk to redact our meeting minutes.

Witch hunt much!?!?!?

PAGE NINETEEN

This entire line of reasoning that a volunteer City Advisory Committee needs to seek Council's approval before addressing the Police Board is absurdity of the highest order. Council screwed up, so the LGBTQ AC threw the HPSB a bone and gave them another option to correct their mistake. Apparently the LGBTQ AC needed Council's AOK before doing that.

PAGE TWENTY-TWO

And the kicker!?!?!?

"At the time neither the Clerk nor other support staff appear to have attempted to stop the LGBTQ AC from making the deputation, as might be expected, or tried to prevent the committee from venturing beyond their mandate in criticizing Council's appointment."

Or how about that Integrity Commissioner who is suppose to advise "board members" if they are in breach of the Municipal Act or any codes of conduct.

Hmmm????

PAGE TWENTY-THREE

"We find that the Respondent's public criticism and disparagement of Council and City processes during this radio interview, while identified as Chair of the LGBTQ AC, is conduct that undermines public confidence in the advisory committee, contrary to the Good Conduct provision in the Code. We find that the Respondent's conduct in this regard breached the Advisory Committee Code of Conduct."

Really!?!?!?

That is a pretty BROAD interpretation of that Code of Conduct. Because no where does it state that a member of an Advisory Committee can NOT openly criticize the actions of Council.

Also that Code of Conduct says that only the Chair can speak on behalf of the Committee to the media. It doesn't say that the Chair needs to seek permission from Council BEFORE they speak to the media.

PAGE TWENTY-FOUR

"Regardless of the Respondent's opinion of the person affected, and the City's relationship to that person, the choice to publish the information on his personal Twitter account did not amount to 'Good Trouble'. On the contrary, the violation was serious and purposeful, and carried with it implications for the City's privacy protection obligations, and the individual involved."

Seriously!?!?! Enough of the misappropriation of the words of John Lewis. Just stop it already.

PAGE TWENTY-SIX

"As noted, advisory committees can only effectively promote change by influencing Council decisions by the making of persuasive recommendations . The decision to follow such recommendations will always reside with Council, and Council will be influenced by the confidence it has in the body making the recommendation. Loss of confidence in a Chair of an advisory committee would be concerning, particularly when the anticipated advice is expected to be complex, and challenge the status quo."

Persuasive Recommendations!?!?!?

Hamilton's Marginalized Communities have been recommending that Council end Hate in our City. The LGBTQ Advisory Committee gave Council several solid recommendations towards that path. Council ignored them. Council keeps ignoring the voices of marginalized communities over and over again.

Is this because all of our recommendations aren't "persuasive" enough.

Or is it because Council has no desire to change the status quo because they are more interested in clinging on to power?

PAGE TWENTY-SEVEN

"Accordingly, it is recommended:

1. That Council pass the following resolution:

That having been found to have breached the Hamilton Advisory Committee/Task Force Code of Conduct, that Cameron Kroetsch be and is hereby formally reprimanded.

2. That Cameron Kroetsch consider resigning from his position on the LGBTQ AC, and should it be his decision to do so, that he indicate that outcome prior to the day upon which this Recommendation Report is to be considered by Council; and

3. Alternatively, that Council consider revoking the appointment of Cameron Kroetsch as a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Advisory Committee, and that he be thanked for his service to date."

So in the end whom does this Integrity Commissioner serve?

The residents of Hamilton or the members of Council?

All this money and time spent on investigating a volunteer unpaid citizen appointee for behaviour unbecoming of an Advisory Committee Chair.

I want my tax dollars back damn it!

Meanwhile we have members of Council harassing and disparaging and disrespecting Hamiltonians delegating to council constantly to the point that people dread even the idea of addressing them in order to "persuade" them.

Expertise is dismissed. Lived experience is disregarded. Intelligent and passionate activists who speak eloquently to Council are written off as "professional agitators".

This is a disgrace!

Councillor Clark recently put forward a motion that MORE marginalized people respond to the City's survey on hate because he felt the sample number that did respond was too small. Because I guess the responses of those who did answer the survey just weren't "real" enough for him. Especially those saying there was a HUGE disconnect between the realities of marginalized communities and the members of Council.

What credible members from marginalized communities would want to put forward their names to sit on any of the City's Advisory Committees after this disturbing silencing by a member of a marginalized community by Council?

But I guess that was the point all along.

We aren't to call out the City for their oppressive practices and systems.

We are suppose to know our place.

And our place is to be a TOKEN.

Because the existence of an Advisory Committee for a marginalized community is as much symbolism as Council wants to prove to every one that they are fighting racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism ... etc.

This is shameful and I hope Hamiltonians have been paying attention because in 2022 it's time to CLEAN HOUSE and get rid of all this dead weight.

ENOUGH!!!

Pilon, Janet

Subject: IC Report running head

From: Lauren Stephen

Sent: September 29, 2020 12:30 AM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: IC Report running head

This is a petty complaint about the IC report. I find the document running head unhelpful, and slightly cheap and vulgar.

Principles *Integrity* is not a name that inspires confidence for me. There is a slipperiness to it. It seems to suggest positive things, but it makes me suspicious because I cannot quite literally work out what it is actually saying. Compare that vagueness to the specificity of a local business name like "Harvey Katz, Personal Injury Law." Or like Mackesy Smye, which gives you the names of the principals. This branded flashiness is not really what I want from an Integrity Commissioner.

I wish we had a clearer name and title here, "Jeffrey A. Abrams, Integrity Commissioner" or something. The way a lead lawyer would put their own name to a legal submission, even if a team did the work.

The running head does not give the most useful information. Notice how much better the running head in the document by Andrea Holland is. Subject / title, page number, and number of pages. Much more professional and helpful.

The unusual formatting and indentation of the logo might look good on an advert or business sign, but there's something about that running head that makes it not inspire as much confidence as it might.

LCS

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Bias in IC Recommendation Report of Sept 24

From: Lauren Stephen

Sent: September 28, 2020 11:20 PM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Bias in IC Recommendation Report of Sept 24

The following statement in the Integrity Commissioner's report of September 24, 2020 reveals racial bias and homophobia. Racial bias and homophobia both in the text of the complaint submitted by Council to the IC, and racial bias and homophobia on the part of the Integrity Commissioner for including the detail in the report.

[47] In March 2019, Council appointed a citizen member to the HPSB. There was some concern raised within parts of the Hamilton community that the appointment was a missed opportunity by Council to ensure the citizen appointment reflected more of the diversity of the population.

The information seems irrelevant to the integrity complaint. Why mention it? Council thought it important enough to include in their complaint, and the IC thought it important enough to include in this report. Why?

If diversity is a competition, then Cameron Kroetsch is more reflective of the diversity of the Hamilton community than you are, Jason Farr. If we remove sexual orientation, then you are the same level of diversity. And that is the problem, and what makes paragraph 47 homophobic and probably racist.

Jason Farr, you yourself do not yourself reflect the diversity of the downtown Hamilton community. You are a heterosexual, white, straight, male, without any visible physical disability. This laundry list of non-diversity applies to most of council, and most of it applies to all of council. Like Cameron Kroetsch, you have some privilege that makes you more likely to be selected for leadership positions within your community.

The people who submitted this information to the IC, and the person who is the IC, clearly are not members of the minority communities they claim to be concerned about here. Rather, this is a strategy to discredit a community leader of a minority community, by pitting minorities against each other. Council and the IC are trying to pit minority communities against each other to silence their criticism of Council.

The diversity of LGBTQ+ community leaders and how well they represent the community is a discussion for the LGBTQ+ community itself. It is a sign of healthy dialogue. It becomes a problem if it then becomes a means for people who are not within the community to undermine our community leaders and representatives, which is what is happening here.

By raising this point, Council and the Integrity Commissioner is attempting to divide the community and turn it against itself. Members of minority communities within the gay community must wonder whether expressing their concerns about diversity of community leadership will then be used to undermine LGBTQ+ rights as a whole. Based on this document, I strongly suspect the Integrity Commissioner is white. I do not believe a member of a visible minority community would have included this statement in the document; they would have been more sensitive to the implications to minority communities.

Cameron Kroesch is very particularized in this document. Clearly he is identified as gay, and in this passage further particularized (identified) as a cis-gendered, able-bodied, white, male. By contrast, City Council and Principles *Integrity* have no identity. They are not individuals with a race or a sex, but their power seems to come from everywhere and nowhere. But the fact is that almost everyone involved is straight, and white, cis-gendered, etc, etc, and the labels of institutional power help to conceal that fact. Yet Council and the IC is claiming the authority to pass judgements on the diversity of Hamilton's Queer community and its leaders, and using debates within the community to undermine a community leader.

I have further concerns about the integrity of this complaint and report, and will email you in the coming days.

Regards,

Lauren Craig Stephen, PhD
Ward 2

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Integrity Commission re: Cameron Kroetsch

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maureen McDougall**

Date: Mon, Sep 28, 2020, 8:53 PM

Subject: Integrity Commission re: Cameron Kroetsch

To: <clerk@hamilton.ca>

Cc: <brad.clatk@hamilton.ca>, <Arlrene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>, <brenda.johnson@hamilton.ca>, <chad.collins@hamilton.ca>, <Jason.farr@hamilton.ca>, <judi.partridge@hamilton.ca>, <lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca>, <maria.pearson@hamilton.ca>, <terry.whitehead@hamilton.ca>, <tom.jackson@hamilton.ca>, <john-paul.danko@hamilton.ca>, <mayor@hamilton.ca>, <sam.merulla@hamilton.ca>, <nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca>, <esther.pauls@hamilton.ca>, <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>

Mayor Eisenberger,

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

We live in a world where democracy is constantly under attack from people who wish to silence dissent. We are seeing the worst of it unfold in real time just south of the border, but in Canada

we are not immune. Whether it's powerful charities filing SLAPP lawsuits against people seeking the truth, or peaceful indigenous journalists being arrested, there appears to be a consensus among those in power that dissent will not be tolerated.

We have seen that creep into the culture of City Hall as well, with people like Councillor Merulla complaining that his other members of Council were more beholden to "keyboard morons"

(which is a funny word for 'engaged citizens') than they were to their colleagues.

There seems to be a case of collective amnesia regarding the reason that politicians are usually described as 'public servants', and the focus now seems to be on only serving the public that agree with them, and continue to stroke their egos.

The circumstances of Mr Kroetsch's removal are also egregious to say the least. With 14 other complaints against councillors, some of a very serious nature, still unresolved, this was the

Integrity Commissioner's number one priority in the middle of a Province wide lockdown?

And how does Council even go about deciding to censure a citizen volunteer for polite but firm criticism, when councillors just a week or so earlier were berating citizen delegates calling them

liars and hypocrites. It seems there are two completely different sets of rules when it comes to decorum: One that applies to what is being said to members of council, and one much more forgiving that governs what is said by those same members.

And finally, the right to face one's accuser is a fundamental principle of justice, so to have the complaint leveled in an anonymous way by council as a whole – some members of which are no

doubt straining under the gag order of an in camera process – reeks of suppression of dissent, and an effort to avoid being the target of political blowback by certain councillors who are clearly past the point of being willing to hear any criticism at all.

Please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen, and keep Mr Kroetsch as chair of the LGBTQ+ committee.

Regards,

Maureen McDougall Ward 2

4.12 (g)

Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing today to express my dismay at Agenda Item 4.8 which highlights the Integrity Commissioner's report on a complaint lodged by council against a resident of our city. Having read the report and been made aware of the events outlined, I felt it necessary to add my voice to the chorus of disapproval. I am concerned that our local government would use powers intended to keep elected officials accountable as a weapon against a community member who expressed opinions that run contrary to those held by council's majority. Further to that, I am fearful that further action will be taken when we have, at this moment, an opportunity to step back, begin a dialogue, and work to restore the trust that has already been lost.

From 2011 to 2015, I had the honour of serving on the City of Hamilton's LGBTQ Advisory Committee. I was glad to be part of a meaningful volunteer committee that hosted some incredible events, worked to inform council about our concerns and issues, and maintained a wonderful relationship with city staff. Over the course of a few years, we helped plant the seeds of a revitalized Hamilton Pride and worked diligently to advance the cause of queer rights in Hamilton.

At the same time as I sat on the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, I remained active in our local politics. I was a frequent critic of many council decisions, expressing those frustrations online and in print. I worked actively on local partisan political campaigns at the federal and provincial level. And, importantly, I twice sought a seat on the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board: once following the untimely passing of Bob Barlow and then again in the 2014 municipal election. As an active member of Hamilton's queer community, I felt it was – and remains – my responsibility to use my skills, talents, and passions to represent both my community and my values in any way possible. For me, and for many in our community, that means being involved in electoral politics. For others, it can mean activism, community work, or a host of other causes.

So many members of the city's queer community are actively involved in politics for one simple reason: as queer residents of Hamilton, we do not have the luxury of being apolitical. We are not imbued with the same privileges that our straight, cisgender, or gender-conforming neighbours have. During a lifetime in Hamilton, I have watched hate crimes increase, discriminatory practices and misconceptions spread, and celebrations of our identities come under attack by organized, coordinated groups of violent extremists. The price of being a queer Hamiltonian is being political.

I want to stress how damaging this report is to the city's queer community and how much this further erodes trust between both queer Hamiltonians and our local institutions. In a free and functioning democracy, citizens and political leaders are free to express their reasonable opinions and values in many ways. The recommendations in this report run contrary to that ideal and will further widen the gulf between council and residents, particularly with queer Hamiltonians.

I urge council to abandon this pursuit of the present Chair of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee and to work in earnest to begin repairing the relationship between the city's queer community and local institutions. We have a chance to pull back, reflect, and work together. We have a chance to make this city a better place, a stronger place, a more inclusive place. And we can do that, together.

Thank you,

Chris Erl

Pilon, Janet

Subject: URGENT: Reconsider investigation of Cameron Kroetsch

From: Haley Reap

Sent: September 28, 2020 8:14 PM

To: Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: URGENT: Reconsider investigation of Cameron Kroetsch

Dear Mayor Eisenberger, Members of City Council, and City Clerk:

I am writing to express my deep concern and frustration with the recent proposed removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the Hamilton LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee over his comments regarding the failure of the Hamilton Police to effectively protect the attendees of the 2019 Pride Festival.

I am deeply disappointed (although, it has to be said, unsurprised) that Council continues to disregard and censor Hamilton's 2-Spirit and LGBTQ+ community. I question council's decision to prioritize the investigation and removal of an engaged citizen volunteer over the 14 existing complaints against Council. Certainly, especially during a pandemic, complaints against paid public servants should take priority. Especially considering the fact that the advisory committees were suspended for much of this year, I fail to see how Mr. Kroetsch's investigation and removal can be reasonably considered a top priority.

Council's continued dismissal of 2-Spirit and LGBTQ+ voices has created, and contributes to a civic environment in which we feel unsafe to engage, and which emboldens hateful action against our community. This is just the latest in a saga of casual suppression. I urge you to reflect on this. Do not take this lightly. We are asking you to listen. Please stop antagonizing us. We belong here too.

Sincerely,

Haley Reap
They/them
Ward 3

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Cameron Kroetsch

From: **Tanya Ritchie**

Date: Mon, Sep 28, 2020 at 3:39 PM

Subject: Cameron Kroetsch

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.farr@hamilton.ca>, Letters@thespec.com <Letters@thespec.com>, Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Dear Mr Mayor and Councillor Farr,

I have carefully read the IC's report on the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee. I find the reasons stated for the investigation to be flimsy and the investigation itself to be poorly-veiled bullying. I profoundly hope that you did not vote for the investigation in March.

Hamilton would be fortunate to have chairs of all its committees with the dedication, the insight, and indeed the integrity of Mr Kroetsch.

The deplorable treatment of LGBTQ+ people (as well as other minorities) in this city must stop. City Council must admit that mistakes have been made and stop compounding those errors. It's not too late to be decent.

Sincerely,

Tanya Ritchie
W2 resident

Pilon, Janet

From: Amy Hondronicols

Sent: September 28, 2020 7:18 PM

To: Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject:

Mayor Eisenberger & council members,

I have serious concerns about the proposed removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

We live in a world where democracy is constantly under attack from people who wish to silence dissent. We are seeing the worst of it unfold in real time just south of the border, but in Canada we are not immune. There appears to be a consensus among those in power that dissent will not be tolerated. We have seen that creep into the culture of City Hall as well, with people like Councillor Merulla complaining that his other members of Council were more beholden to "keyboard morons" (which is a funny term for 'engaged citizens') than they were to their colleagues.

There seems to be a case of collective amnesia regarding the reason that politicians are usually described as 'public servants', and the focus now seems to be on only serving the public that agree with them, and continue to stroke their egos.

The circumstances of Mr. Kroetsch's removal are also egregious to say the least. With 14 other complaints against councillors, some of a very serious nature, still unresolved, this was the Integrity Commissioner's number one priority in the middle of a province-wide lockdown?

And how does Council even go about deciding to censure a citizen volunteer for polite but firm criticism, when councillors just a week or so earlier were berating citizen delegates calling them liars and hypocrites. It seems there are two completely different sets of rules when it comes to decorum: one that applies to what is being said to members of council, and one much more forgiving that governs what is said *by* those same members.

And finally, the right to face one's accuser is a fundamental principle of justice, so to have the complaint leveled in an anonymous way by council as a whole – some members of which are no doubt straining under the gag order of an in camera process – reeks of suppression of dissent, and an effort to avoid being the target of political blowback by certain councillors who are clearly past the point of being willing to hear any criticism at all. I have serious concerns about the secrecy that seems to surround this process to remove Mr. Kroetsch.

Please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen, and keep Mr. Kroetsch as chair of the LGBTQ+ committee.

Sincerely,

Amy Hondronicols
Ward 1

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Cameron Kroetsch

From: Rachel Cuthill

Sent: September 28, 2020 5:13 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Cameron Kroetsch

Mayor Eisenberger

I am writing with regards to the Integrity Commissioners investigation and proposed removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

Investigating Mr. Kroetsch in the first place, as a citizen volunteer, fast tracking his case over 14 others currently weighed against members of City Council, seems to me to be an abuse of the role of the Commissioner and of Council's power. That role is in place to provide accountability to our elected officials, such as when they physically assault journalists, call their constituents "keyboard morons" for advocating for safe streets, or verbally attacking community members online, and degrading houseless Hamiltonians. Indeed, the Commissioner has 14 such cases underway, and yet prioritized the punitive investigation of Mr. Kroetsch for his words in his role as committee chair.

Additionally, the content of Mr. Kroetsch's criticism has been confirmed by the Police themselves. Chief Girt has issued an apology admitting that the police response at Pride 2019 was insufficient. And yet Mr. Kroetsch is facing a complaint and the threat of removal from his role for making the same statements.

Mr. Mayor, criticism and dissent are crucial parts of a functional democracy. The job of Council is to serve the people of Hamilton, not just the ones who agree with Council Members. While Cameron Kroetsch may have had things to say that reflected poorly on the City of Hamilton and the HPS, they were said because his role necessitates that he demand better of those entities so that they can represent and serve all of the people of Hamilton, including those that are the most marginalized.

Removing Mr. Kroetsch from his role would serve to once again silence and belittle dissent, rather than embracing a call to identify areas in which Hamilton can better. Lately it seems that not all of Council shares that goal. They seem to feel that their job is to maintain the status quo and put down those who ask for better.

Please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen, and keep Mr Kroetsch as chair of the LGBTQ+ committee.

Regards,

Rachel Cuthill,
Ward 4

September 28th, 2020

Re: Use of Integrity Commissioner to persecute Citizen Volunteers

Dear Fred Eisenberg and Members of Council,

I am writing today to express my absolute disbelief that Hamilton City Council has chosen to stifle dissent by using the Integrity Commissioner to investigate a Hamilton citizen who has given his time to the city as a volunteer.

As per the Hamilton.ca website "The role of the Integrity Commissioner is to help ensure that members of Council perform their functions in accordance with the Code of Conduct and other procedures, rules or policies governing their ethical behaviour." In no way should this position be used to police citizen volunteers.

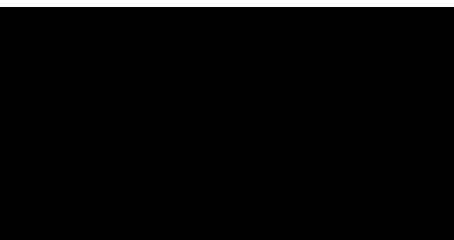
It frankly impossible to understand how Council could have decided that they need to investigate a citizen volunteer when there are fourteen outstanding complaints against City Councillors. It is also impossible to understand that there is no person behind this decision and that the entire Council has chosen this course of action. Is the Council is hoping for safety in numbers? They must realize that citizens across the city would be dismayed by their actions.

This is the first time I have ever heard of an Integrity Commissioner being used in this way, and this action now renders the office useless. No citizen will see the Integrity Commissioner as a person to approach with regards to council, as the position is clearly only an extension of Councils will. After this Council should remove the position as it's clearly of no real purpose and make it clear that they will not be held to any ethical standard.

This decision also tells citizens of Hamilton that they may only join these committees if they are willing to not actually advise Council. They may only agree with Council. It might be best to simply disband all the advisory committees now, to simplify the procedure and save Council bringing out the Integrity Commissioner to threaten anyone who dares to not agree with Council members and to advocate for their community.

This is an abuse of power. Somehow members of this Council came to believe that they are above reproach. But we are in a democracy and no one is above reproach. We elect council members to represent the will of the people. If the members of Council cannot listen to their citizens, and particularly listen to our marginalized groups without lashing out at them, they should step down and take up a career where they are no longer public servants.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

Noelle Allen, Ward 1

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LGBTQ Advisory Committee Chair

From: Jason Allen

Sent: September 28, 2020 3:21 PM

To: Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: LGBTQ Advisory Committee Chair

Mayor Eisenberger

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

We live in a world where democracy is constantly under attack from people who wish to silence dissent. We are seeing the worst of it unfold in real time just south of the border, but in Canada we are not immune. Whether it's powerful charities filing SLAPP lawsuits against people seeking the truth, or peaceful indigenous journalists being arrested, there appears to be a consensus among those in power that dissent will not be tolerated.

We have seen that creep into the culture of City Hall as well, with people like Councillor Merulla complaining that his other members of Council were more beholden to "keyboard morons" (which is a funny word for 'engaged citizens') than they were to their colleagues.

There seems to be a case of collective amnesia regarding the reason that politicians are usually described as 'public servants', and the focus now seems to be on only serving the public that agree with them, and continue to stroke their egos.

The circumstances of Mr Kroetsch's removal are also egregious to say the least. With 14 other complaints against councillors, some of a very serious nature, still unresolved, this was the Integrity Commissioner's number one priority in the middle of a Province wide lockdown?

And how does Council even go about deciding to censure a citizen volunteer for polite but firm criticism, when councillors just a week or so earlier were berating citizen delegates calling them liars and hypocrites. It seems there are two completely different sets of rules when it comes to decorum: One that applies to what is being said to members of council, and one much more forgiving that governs what is said *by* those same members.

And finally, the right to face one's accuser is a fundamental principle of justice, so to have the complaint leveled in an anonymous way by council as a whole – some members of which are no doubt straining under the gag order of an in camera process – reeks of suppression of dissent, and an effort to avoid being the target of political blowback by certain councillors who are clearly past the point of being willing to hear any criticism at all.

Please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen, and keep Mr Kroetsch as chair of the LGBTQ+ committee.

Regards,

Jason Allen

Engaged Citizen/Keyboard Moron

Kirkendall, Ward 1.

4.12 (n)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Chair and IC Complaint

From: dstermann

Sent: September 28, 2020 6:42 PM

To: Eisenberger, Fred <Fred.Eisenberger@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca;

Subject: LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Chair and IC Complaint

Dear Council,

I have serious concerns with Council proposing to remove Cameron Kroetsch from his role as chair of the LGBTQ+ and advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

Is council so afraid of criticism that you approve of suppressing any dissent? How does this encourage members of any community to become involved in their government?

That you have the audacity to file an IC complaint, saying that it breached the "code of conduct and good communications" is really hard to swallow when I see at your own council meetings the lack of decorum used by several councillors. Such hypocrisy! There are currently 14 other complaints against councillors yet this was the Integrity Commissioner's focus!!

If you haven't noticed democracy is being attacked around the world. To see it being attacked first hand here in my City Hall is greatly alarming.

In order for democracy to work the electorate MUST be engaged. If you don't engage you lose. We all lose.

Last I checked this was still a democracy and opposing voices still mattered.

Please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen, and keep Mr Kroetsch as chair of the LGBTQ+ committee.

Doreen Stermann

Ward 1

Pilon, Janet

Subject: The Integrity Commissioner's report on Cameron Kroetsch

From: Myke Hutchings

Sent: September 28, 2020 4:02 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: The Integrity Commissioner's report on Cameron Kroetsch

Mayor Eisenberger, Councilor Nann and the City Clerk

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the Integrity Commissioner's report recommending the removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

I am stunned to see that Hamilton City Council is trying to silence an appointed advisory committee member by requesting the Integrity Commissioner to undertake this review. It seems that the City only wishes advisory committees to exist as set dressing for political theater only, rather than engage the actual communities in question in actual dialogue.

In this action, you have shown the citizens of marginalized communities that they are not valued and such engagement can be used against them instead of trying to support and uplift those communities.

There seems to be a case of collective amnesia regarding the reason that politicians are usually described as 'public servants', and the focus now seems to be on only serving the segments of the public who agree with them, and continue to stroke their egos.

I am astonished that with 14 other complaints against Councillors, some of a very serious nature, all still unresolved, this was the Integrity Commissioner's number one priority in the middle of a Province wide lockdown? A complaint that was brought forth anonymously on behalf of "City Council" after an in camera meeting. When members of the public wish to bring forth an Integrity Commission complaint, their names become public record, it is astonishing that Council would rather choose collective anonymity after an in camera session rather than take responsibility for this action by signing their names to it. Whither "accountability"?

And how does Council even go about deciding to censure a citizen volunteer - appointed by council - for polite but firm criticism, when Councillors just a week or so earlier were berating citizen delegates calling them liars and hypocrites. It seems there are two completely different sets of rules when it comes to decorum: One that applies to what is being said to members of Council, and one much more forgiving that governs what is said *by* those same members.

The right to face one's accuser is a fundamental principle of justice, so to have the complaint leveled in an anonymous way by council as a whole – some members of which are no doubt straining under the gag order of an in camera process – reeks of suppression of dissent, and an effort to avoid being the target of political blowback by certain councillors who are clearly past the point of being willing to hear any criticism at all.

I sincerely hope that you appreciate that this Integrity Commission ruling on Mr. Kroetsch appears to be systematic oppression of the city's 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and that the city is actively trying to silence advice, constructive criticism and the voices of the community. The irony of all of this is that it occurs a few days after Council bemoans the lack of response to a survey of marginalized communities respect to the growing epidemic of hate crimes.

This action against Mr. Kroetsch is a shining example as to why citizens of marginalized communities are wary of your attempts to engage us. Because you don't seem to want to listen to what the communities have to say and you won't hesitate to punish us and attempt to publicly humiliate us if you are uncomfortable or disagree with our experiences and voices.

I ask you to please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen.

Regards,

Michael F. (Myke) Hutchings
Ward 3

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LGBTQ+ advisory committee

From: Jessica Claus

Sent: September 28, 2020 4:53 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: LGBTQ+ advisory committee

Mayor Eisenberger

Due to the short timeline, I don't have time to write anything extensive or thoughtful. And since my fellow concerned citizen Jason Allen has already said it so eloquently, I have quoted his email below. I fully support everything he says below and I am greatly concerned about this decision by council.

Best regards,

Jessica Claus

Ward14

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

We live in a world where democracy is constantly under attack from people who wish to silence dissent. We are seeing the worst of it unfold in real time just south of the border, but in Canada we are not immune. Whether it's powerful charities filing SLAPP lawsuits against people seeking the truth, or peaceful indigenous journalists being arrested, there appears to be a consensus among those in power that dissent will not be tolerated.

We have seen that creep into the culture of City Hall as well, with people like Councillor Merulla complaining that his other members of Council were more beholden to "keyboard morons" (which is a funny word for 'engaged citizens') than they were to their colleagues.

There seems to be a case of collective amnesia regarding the reason that politicians are usually described as 'public servants', and the focus now seems to be on only serving the public that agree with them, and continue to stroke their egos.

The circumstances of Mr Kroetsch's removal are also egregious to say the least. With 14 other complaints against councillors, some of a very serious nature, still unresolved, this was the Integrity Commissioner's number one priority in the middle of a Province wide lockdown?

And how does Council even go about deciding to censure a citizen volunteer for polite but firm criticism, when councillors just a week or so earlier were berating citizen delegates calling them liars and hypocrites. It seems there are two completely different sets of rules when it comes to decorum: One that applies to what is being said to members of council, and one much more forgiving that governs what is said *by* those same members.

And finally, the right to face one's accuser is a fundamental principle of justice, so to have the complaint leveled in an anonymous way by council as a whole – some members of which are no doubt straining under the gag order of an in camera process – reeks of suppression of dissent, and an effort to avoid being the target

of political blowback by certain councillors who are clearly past the point of being willing to hear any criticism at all.

Please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen, and keep Mr Kroetsch as chair of the LGBTQ+ committee.

Regards,

Jason Allen

Ward 1.

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Bias in IC Recommendation Report of Sept 24

From: Lauren Stephen

Sent: September 29, 2020 10:34 AM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Re: Bias in IC Recommendation Report of Sept 24

Context. Based on Paragraph 8, it seems that the Integrity Commissioner, Principles *Integrity* has selected which information to include in this report.

[8] On March 4, 2020 we received a complaint submitted to us by the City Clerk on behalf of Council for the City of Hamilton. For the purposes of properly scoping our investigation, we have restated and narrowed the complaint against the Respondent.

In other words, the IC has chosen not to include some information submitted by Council in its Complaint, information the IC considers less relevant. Nevertheless, this note about community concerns about Council's selection of a white, cis-gendered, able-bodied man as Chair of the LGBTQ+ AC is included. A rehashing of history that I don't see as relevant.

On Mon, 28 Sep 2020 at 23:19, Lauren Stephen wrote:

The following statement in the Integrity Commissioner's report of September 24, 2020 reveals racial bias and homophobia. Racial bias and homophobia both in the text of the complaint submitted by Council to the IC, and racial bias and homophobia on the part of the Integrity Commissioner for including the detail in the report.

[47] In March 2019, Council appointed a citizen member to the HPSB. There was some concern raised within parts of the Hamilton community that the appointment was a missed opportunity by Council to ensure the citizen appointment reflected more of the diversity of the population.

The information seems irrelevant to the integrity complaint. Why mention it? Council thought it important enough to include in their complaint, and the IC thought it important enough to include in this report. Why?

If diversity is a competition, then Cameron Kroetsch is more reflective of the diversity of the Hamilton community than you are, Jason Farr. If we remove sexual orientation, then you are the same level of diversity. And that is the problem, and what makes paragraph 47 homophobic and probably racist.

Jason Farr, you yourself do not yourself reflect the diversity of the downtown Hamilton community. You are a heterosexual, white, straight, male, without any visible physical disability. This laundry list of non-diversity applies to most of council, and most of it applies to all of council. Like Cameron Kroetsch, you have some privilege that makes you more likely to be selected for leadership positions within your community.

The people who submitted this information to the IC, and the person who is the IC, clearly are not members of the minority communities they claim to be concerned about here. Rather, this is a strategy to discredit a community leader of a minority community, by pitting minorities against each other. Council and the IC are trying to pit minority communities against each other to silence their criticism of Council.

The diversity of LGBTQ+ community leaders and how well they represent the community is a discussion for the LGBTQ+ community itself. It is a sign of healthy dialogue. It becomes a problem if it then becomes a means for people who are not within the community to undermine our community leaders and representatives, which is what is happening here.

By raising this point, Council and the Integrity Commissioner is attempting to divide the community and turn it

against itself. Members of minority communities within the gay community must wonder whether expressing their concerns about diversity of community leadership will then be used to undermine LGBTQ+ rights as a whole. Based on this document, I strongly suspect the Integrity Commissioner is white. I do not believe a member of a visible minority community would have included this statement in the document; they would have been more sensitive to the implications to minority communities.

Cameron Kroesch is very particularized in this document. Clearly he is identified as gay, and in this passage further particularized (identified) as a cis-gendered, able-bodied, white, male. By contrast, City Council and Principles *Integrity* have no identity. They are not individuals with a race or a sex, but their power seems to come from everywhere and nowhere. But the fact is that almost everyone involved is straight, and white, cis-gendered, etc, etc, and the labels of institutional power help to conceal that fact. Yet Council and the IC is claiming the authority to pass judgements on the diversity of Hamilton's Queer community and its leaders, and using debates within the community to undermine a community leader.

I have further concerns about the integrity of this complaint and report, and will email you in the coming days.

Regards,

Lauren Craig Stephen, PhD
Ward 2

Pilon, Janet

Subject: LGBTQ Advisory Committee Chair and Integrity Commissioner Report (item 4.8)

From: Craig Burley

Sent: September 29, 2020 10:16 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: LGBTQ Advisory Committee Chair and Integrity Commissioner Report (item 4.8)

Dear Clerk,

Please add this correspondence to the agenda.

Dear Members of Council,

I write to you, my councillor and as the mayor, in respect of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner, item 4.8 on tomorrow's agenda.

I will leave my criticism of the jurisdictional aspects of the IC's report for another forum. Let's not get lost in inside baseball.

I will, however, mention that in my previous dealings with this IC, Principles Integrity, I was personally assured that your former City colleague Ms. Atwood-Petkovski, one of that firm's principals, would be excluded from the IC's dealings because of the obvious conflicts of interest she presented.

I understand that this was not the case with this report, that Ms. Atwood-Petkovski was a participant in the investigation of this complaint, and I want to share with you my **frank outrage** that she was allowed to hear, consider, and rule upon a matter in which the complainants include (factually) a large number of her former colleagues and (formally) the entity, the City of Hamilton, that I understand pays her pension.

Ms. Atwood-Petkovski had advised the City (the formal complainant) on integrity matters and has advised many of you personally (who are factually the complainants) on integrity matters. For her to adjudicate your complaint is not in keeping with the standards of professional ethics that are, in my view, required for an ethics commissioner.

It is absolutely incumbent on any decisionmaker or adjudicator to keep themselves free from conflicts, and Jeffrey Abrams and I have previously had to carefully negotiate his firm's investigation of matters I have complained of, precisely because of his partner's financial and personal conflicts.

There is a clear conflict of interest, and a wholesale appearance of bias, underlying this report. It is incumbent upon you as members of Council to question the Integrity Commissioner on this matter and to reject the report in its entirety if Ms. Atwood-Petkovski, financially and professionally entangled with the complainant, was permitted to take any role at all in its investigation or preparation.

As for the report itself, I consider the recommendation to be unsupported by facts, and would hasten to point out that accusing a man of criticism and disparagement without a single quotation of such supposedly critical or disparaging remarks does not meet ordinary standards of natural justice. (As for Fred Bennink's "personal information", the public knows who Mr. Bennink is and knows what he does and knows the City appointed him to the HPSB.)

Finally, as a member of this city's LGBTQ community, I have always felt supported, represented and indeed cherished by Cameron Kroetsch in a way that I have never felt by the City of Hamilton. The vast majority of my queer friends agree

with me wholeheartedly on this. Do not think that you will quell our criticism by removing Mr. Kroetsch; instead you will simply continue the same sad tale of anti-queer bullying and hostility that has characterized Hamilton's official and especially unofficial position on our community for my 26 years in Hamilton. And that community is already very angry, and view this matter from a point of view of deep and abiding grievance, as the Pride in Hamilton report will tell you.

You need to listen to your Advisory Committee's advice. You've been badly misguided in not doing so. Remove the Chair and I feel certain our queer and trans communities will return that hostility many times over.

In short, there is still plenty of time to keep clear heads, and if necessary resubmit this matter to an *appropriate* adjudicator not standing in a direct financial conflict of interest. It is never appropriate for Ms. Atwood-Petkovski to consider complaints made by the City corporately or by this Council as a body.

Sincerely and with regards,

Craig Burley

Craig Burley
Barrister & Solicitor

Subject: Abuse of the office of the Integrity Commissioner

From: sarah Kovacs

Date: September 29, 2020 at 10:08:44 EDT

To: Jason Farr <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>, mayor@hamilton.ca

Cc: tmoro@thespec.com

Subject: Abuse of the office of the Integrity Commissioner

Jason,

As a resident of Ward 2 in Hamilton and your constituent I had to reach out to say that I am disgusted at council's abuse of the office of the integrity commissioner in bringing a complaint against Cameron Kroetsch. The IC's office is meant to investigate complaints against council. That you are using it to punish a resident, and one who volunteers for the community is an egregious abuse of power.

Cameron is an outspoken member a minority community with a position leading a City council advisory committee. It is his job to speak out against council when their actions hurt people in the LBGTQ community. That you would use this process against him sends the message that council is willing to punish the least powerful in our community when they speak out against the most powerful in our community.

Is that really the message you want to send the constituents of ward 2 and the city at large ? That you stood up against one person whose duty it is to help council improve ? Is this an accomplishment that members of council will stand behind when campaigning for their seats in 2022 ?

You are bullies. You are using your power against us. Your job is to act with integrity when representing us and to protect us. But watching you throw the full weight of an Integrity Commissioner against one of your own constituents I'm left wondering, who will protect us from you ?

From Sarah Kovacs

Ward 2 resident

Hamilton Ontario

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Keep Cameron Kroetsch on the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

From: Amanda Ayer

Sent: September 29, 2020 11:43 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Fwd: Keep Cameron Kroetsch on the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Mayor Eisenberg and Members of Council,

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed removal of Cameron Kroetsch from the chair of the LGBTQ+ advisory committee over his remarks concerning Hamilton Police Service's failure to protect participants at the 2019 Pride festival.

I find it unfathomable that this complaint **against a tax-paying volunteer** was fast-tracked and prioritized over 14 complaints against Council. Will those 14 complaints ever be addressed?

I was the recipient of Terry Whitehead's extremely crude and unprofessional remarks about Hamilton's homeless population. I decided against filing a complaint with the integrity commission as I had already lost faith in my city council after a mostly lacking response to his behaviour. I was surprised to find out many citizens filed a complaint against Mr. Whitehead, but I worry that those complaints will remain unresolved as it is apparent that the priority of city council is not to address their own wrongdoings, but rather to silence their critics.

Please reconsider this reckless and irresponsible move to silence an engaged citizen, and keep Mr Kroetsch as chair of the LGBTQ+ committee.

Regards,

Amanda Ayer

Ward 4.

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Integrity Commissioner Report

From: Sienna DiGiuseppe

Sent: September 29, 2020 11:34 AM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Integrity Commissioner Report

Dear Councillor Farr,

I am writing to seek further clarification on your position on the Integrity Commissioner's ruling on the complaint that council filed against Cameron Kroetsch in his capacity as the chair of the city's LGBTQ Advisory Committee.

I was shocked to learn that council had voted to file a complaint such as this against a citizen volunteer and community leader who not only represents a marginalized community, but a community that has struggled to be heard and respected in this city in recent years. I was further disappointed to learn that there was not a public record of the vote to file the complaint, and so I am reaching out to ask that you disclose how you voted and your reasoning.

Additionally, I read the following quote you provided in [the Spectator](#):

Coun. Jason Farr said he didn't know what position he'd take on the recommendations but argued council's role in the commissioner's findings about Kroetsch was "hands-off."
"If he's got a beef with those findings, his beef is with the integrity commissioner."

You are well aware of the current climate surrounding the way that council interacts with the public. Given the growing distrust and the feeling that many members of council view any dissenting opinion as an attack, and given that the complaint was submitted by council, I would suggest that it is well within the public's interest to hear more from council regarding their justification for this unprecedented use of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner to investigate a volunteer.

I respect that there will be issues where councillors have differing opinions from members of the public, but it is incredibly frustrating and disheartening to see council consistently treat engaged citizens as enemies. That council would choose to initiate this process behind closed doors is unacceptable and only further contributes to the toxic relationship being fostered in our community. This action serves to further deter citizens from participating in our municipal political process and erodes the strength of our engaged community.

I would strongly urge you to vote against accepting the findings and/or implementing the recommendations of this report tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Regards,
Sienna DiGiuseppe
Ward 2 Resident

4.12 (v)

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Regarding Recommendation to Remove Mr. Kroetsch from LGBTQ Advisory Committee

From: Dana Hansen

Sent: September 28, 2020 11:15 AM

To: maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>; jason.farr@hamilton.ca <jason.farr@hamilton.ca>; nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca <nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca>; sam.merulla@hamilton.ca <sam.merulla@hamilton.ca>; chad.collins@hamilton.ca <chad.collins@hamilton.ca>; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca <tom.jackson@hamilton.ca>; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca <esther.pauls@hamilton.ca>; ward8@hamilton.ca <ward8@hamilton.ca>; brad.clark@hamilton.ca <brad.clark@hamilton.ca>; maria.pearson@hamilton.ca <maria.pearson@hamilton.ca>; brenda.johnson@hamilton.ca <brenda.johnson@hamilton.ca>; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca <lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca>; arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca <arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca>; terry.whitehead@hamilton.ca <terry.whitehead@hamilton.ca>; judi.partridge@hamilton.ca <judi.partridge@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Regarding Recommendation to Remove Mr. Kroetsch from LGBTQ Advisory Committee

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and City Councillors:

The recommendation made in the Integrity Commissioner's final report (following a complaint filed in March of this year) to remove Cameron Kroetsch from his position as volunteer Chair of the LGBTQ Advisory Committee is beyond unacceptable, and is a clear abuse of power and privilege.

This is the first time that council has voted to use the Integrity Commission – set up to investigate complaints against Council – to investigate and now attempt to oust a citizen from a volunteer position. The investigation was conducted during a pandemic, and was prioritized over 14 complaints against Council, strongly suggesting intention on the part of the Commission and the Council to silence Mr. Kroetsch, and the voices of the many Hamiltonians who are so often unheard by their institutions and elected officials. Critical feedback from the citizenry is essential in governance, and I for one am not interested in supporting a Council that is unwilling to hear such feedback, and that responds in such an unprecedented, punitive, and abusive manner.

As a concerned Hamiltonian, I strongly urge you to carefully consider the message this action, if taken, of removing Mr. Kroetsch from the LGBTQ Advisory Committee will send to all Hamiltonians, including those who sit on other advisory committees, and especially to all members of oppressed communities in Hamilton.

Sincerely,

Dana Hansen

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Item 4.8

Name of Individual: Ashley Daniels

Reason(s) for delegation request:

Mayor and members of council:

I am writing today to express my profound disappointment in how the chair of Hamilton's LGBTQ advisory committee, Cameron Kroetsch, has been treated.

It has long been known by Hamilton's LGBTQ community that our local government is not doing enough to uplift LGBTQ people, and is in some cases making things worse. The fact that a complaint was lodged against Kroetsch by this council is, quite clearly, making things worse. How can progress be made when critiques of government are ignored and censured? The LGBTQ community has good reason to be mistrustful of this council and Hamilton's municipal government in general. This is why there is a need for an LGBTQ advisory committee in the first place.

Cameron Kroetsch was publicly critical of this council. He informed Hamiltonians of issues. He did a service to not just LGBTQ Hamiltonians, but all residents by addressing intersectional issues of white supremacy and policing. How can the chair of an advisory committee possibly not have the right to advise the community he serves?

Perfection is expected of marginalized people when advocating for themselves and their communities, but even if they do everything right, their truth gets buried in some report to be ignored, never acted on. I applaud Mr. Kroetsch for not letting important issues in this city meekly fade into the background noise of bureaucratic processes.

Members of this very council have made and continue to make comments that are wildly and shockingly inappropriate. Where is the 'appropriate behaviour' from you? How is a radio interview about public affairs anathema, but threatening street outreach doctors with lawsuits is perfectly acceptable? How is a single Twitter post a matter of official censure, but not the near-constant bile expressed by members of this council on social media and in official council meetings?

The censure of Cameron Kroetsch is shameful. This council must clean up its act.

Sincerely,
Ashley Daniels, M.Ed.

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Street safety neglected at Main St & Sherman Ave

From: Deborah Tomlinson

Sent: September 29, 2020 10:44 AM

To: Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Street safety neglected at Main St & Sherman Ave

Dear Councillor Nann & City Council,

Immediate action is needed along the Main and King Street corridors, specifically at the Main St & Sherma Ave intersection. It is unconscionable that the City continue to ignore the safety of its citizens and call these roadways, quoting Lloyd Ferguson, a 'competitive advantage'.

As you know, last night at 8 PM a car accident occurred at the corner of Main & Sherman. One of the vehicles involved ended up crashing into Big Top a diner in the neighbourhood. This is a popular intersection for pedestrians and thankfully none were injured.

The City's own Collision report from 2019 lists Main St at Sherman Ave as an Intersection with one of the **Highest Frequency of Pedestrian Fatal and Injury Collisions**. It also lists Main St at Dundurn, John, Wentworth and Victoria.

I have lived in the neighbourhood for 7 years and this is the **2nd time in the past two years** alone that a car has crashed into that specific diner.

Across the road from Big Top is a Shopper's Drug Mart which has also been **crashed into twice in the past year**.

Within the last month **a car crashed into a home on Sherman Ave at Dunsmere**.

There have been recent commitments made to traffic calming along Aberdeen Ave after it was determined that Aberdeen has a 4.7 Collisions per million vehicle - kilometres which is higher than the industry standard of 1.0. What are the collision per million rates for Main Street and Sherman Ave?

Beginning October 1st Hamilton is launching an automated speed enforcement pilot program but locations where students of Prince of Wales (King at Lottridge), Bernie Custis (King at Melrose) and Adelaide Hoodless (Main at Sherman, which again was listed as having one of the **Highest Frequency of Pedestrian Fatal and Injury Collisions**) cross were included in the pilot. Why is this?

A crossing guard for Adelaide Hoodless stands at the corner of Main and Sherman every morning and afternoon - in the exact spot where **4 cars in the past two years** have mounted the curb and caused damage to bricks & mortar. How much longer will the city continue to neglect this neighbourhood's safety? These students are walking along side walks with only a few feet between them and 4 lanes of speeding cars. I have reached out to the City's School Crossing Guard's program to inquire about adding additional and possibly safer options for students crossing Main & King Street.

I invite all City Councillors to join me on our walk or bike to school to see the conditions they are asking lower city residents to endure. I know there will be push back from council. During a recent City Council meeting Terri Whitehead asked a concerned citizen and parent, "did you not know the desire, the design, the practice of Aberdeen before you bought your home?" This is not a sound argument or line of questioning to keep neighbourhood unsafe.

I hope you will each take me up on this offer.

Respectfully,
Deborah Tomlinson-Veit

<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2020-08-19/2019-annual-collision-report.pdf>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/big-top-crash-1.5742816>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/decorum-1.5726680>

<https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2020/08/24/traffic-calming-measures-will-make-aberdeen-avenue-safer.html>